

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 (ISO) W

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R 270939Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7813

CONFIDENTIAL BRUSSELS 08323

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US, BE

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO PANMUMJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. ALL BELGIAN MEDIA HAVE FULLY REPORTED PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AND AFTERMATH IN STRAIGHT FORWARD WAY, BASED ON WESTERN PRESS ACCOUNTS, EXCEPT COMMUNIST PAPER WHICH CITED ONLY NORTH KOREAN VERSION WITHOUT COMMENT.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE TO USG REACTION, NOTING THAT "IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF FORCE" WAS CAREFULLY BALANCED WITH FIRM "RESTRAINT AND A VERY HIGH SENSE OF DIPLOMACY". SOME PAPERS HAVE COMMENTED ON UNUSUAL NATURE OF NORTH KOREAN EXPRESSION OF "REGRET", AND FURTHER THAT INCIDENT WILL NOT FURTHER NORTH KOREAN GOAL OF SECURING U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH KOREA.

3. NO SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM BELGIAN OFFICIALS. WE TAKE THAT SILENCE TO INDICATE GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH USG HANDLING OF THE SITUATION.

4. DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARTER GOT GOOD MARKS FROM SOCIALIST PRESS FOR HIS CARE "NOT TO YIELD TO A DOUBLE TEMPTATION: THAT OF WEAKENING PRESIDENT

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FORD'S POSITION AND THAT, EVEN WORSE, OF OVERBIDDING."RENNER

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Message Attributes

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